

Did you know

🐾 Over 30,000 stray and abandoned animals are left at the shelter every year for many reasons. Don't let your pet become a statistic. There are simple measures that one can take to keep a pet safe and healthy, too.

🐾 One of the most important health decisions you'll make is to spay or neuter your cat or dog. Spaying your female dog or cat requires minimal hospitalization and offers lifelong health benefits. Neutering your male dog or cat will vastly improve your pet's behavior and keep him close to home. It also helps to reduce the number of unwanted pets.

🐾 Dogs, cats, and ferrets must be vaccinated against the rabies virus beginning at 4 months of age, and must be revaccinated annually or every three years, depending on the vaccine manufacturer directions.

🐾 Vaccinating your dog has long been considered one of the easiest way to provide for a long, healthy life. Not only are there different vaccines for different diseases, there are different types and combinations of vaccines. Core vaccines to seriously consider are canine parvovirus, distemper, and canine hepatitis.

🐾 If your dog has a health problem, your Veterinarian can request up to a one year exemption from the rabies vaccine. Don't forget to purchase the yearly license - it is still required even with or without a rabies exemption.

🐾 You may be eligible for reduced license fees. Pet owners on public assistance can present the original letter from Federal/State agency establishing your eligibility for Food Stamps, Medicaid, etc.... (Food Stamp or Medicaid Card is NOT acceptable proof of eligibility).

🐾 You can purchase a dog license at your veterinary office. Supplies are always on hand. It's easy and convenient! Don't forget to ask about microchipping your pet, too! It can make the difference in reuniting with your pet if he/she is lost.

🐾 Keeping your pet on a leash at all times when off your property can keep them safe from harm or loss. Do not allow your pets to run free.

🐾 Tethering a dog is not only against the law, but makes for a more aggressive behavior.

🐾 By calling 3-1-1 you can have your account updated to report that your pet was lost, passed away, given away or your name or address changed. This simple step can make the difference in the issuance of an erroneous citation, but more importantly help us reunite you and your pet if he is found.

🐾 Pet stores must microchip all dogs that are sold. Additionally, the sales agreement must include the original official certificate of veterinary inspection. Don't be mislead by unscrupulous pet sellers.

🐾 Leaving a dog without shelter, food, water or medical care can be considered cruelty. Don't let this happen in your neighborhood. Report cruelty cases immediately by calling 3-1-1. You can make anonymous reports.

🐾 Your veterinarian is a great source of information and your pet's best advocate! Ask him/her for guidance on the benefits of spaying or neutering your pet, licensing, microchipping and vaccination.

🐾 Want to know when your license and vaccine expires or if your address has been updated, please visit www.miamidade.gov/animals/dog-license.asp, and click on "Dog License Look-Up" to check on your pet account status and content information.



Miami-Dade Animals Services – 7401 NW 74 Street, Miami, FL 33166
For more information call 3-1-1 or visit www.miamidade.gov/animals

